

ENGL 475—Creative Project, *The Things They Carried* [15% of course grade]

1] You will apply what you have studied about Tim O'Brien's novel *The Things They Carried* into the form of a **creative project [50 points]**. This project will be primarily judged on the student's ability to reflect his/her critical reading of the text in an original, creative manner. On the day the project is due, each student will display his/her project in the classroom, and a portion of the student's grade [1/5th], will be determined by one's peers.

- Ideas for a creative project:
 - poetry [an original poem[s] that total a minimum of 750 words]
 - retelling one of the chapters from the perspective of a different narrator [750 words]
 - the letter from Curt Lemon's sister back to Rat Kiley [750 words]
 - choose one of the soldiers in the field the night Kiowa dies and write a condolence letter from that character to Kiowa's family [750 words]
 - a graphic novel representation of one of the chapters
 - a movie poster for a film version of the book
 - a scrapbook or journal of one of the characters
 - a collection of "chapter" covers
 - an artistic interpretation of a chapter, scene, character, or theme associated with the book—painting, drawing, sculpture, 3D art, collage, photography, etc.—**NOT** to include various forms of digital media
 - if you have any idea for a creative project that is not listed, please check with me before proceeding

2] You will also compose a thesis-driven, **analysis of your creative project** [2½ -3 pages in length; 6+ paragraphs] **[100 points]**. This paper will be primarily judged on the student's ability to insightfully analyze his/her project, going beyond "surface level" meaning.

Evaluation Criteria:

- a clear, concise argumentative-based **thesis statement**
- effective **organization** for both the body paragraphs and the paper
- each body paragraph includes **multiple pieces of support** [i.e., references to aspects/evidence from your creative project] that support the paragraph's main idea
- textual support is **critically analyzed** to support thesis
- paper shows a critical **understanding of the text, the project, and literary devices** as discussed in class
- paper **does not rely on summary** of ideas to prove thesis
- **establishes and maintains a consistent "scholarly" voice** that reflects the author's thesis and the paper's **audience** [an academic audience of one's peers that has critically studied the novel *The Things They Carried*]
- mature and effective **style** [for example, the paper is written in **present tense**; avoids **first or second person references**; includes a variety of **sentence patterns**; effective use of **transitions**, etc.]
- follows the **conventions of written English** [i.e., free of repetitive grammatical errors]
- follows **strict MLA policy & procedure** [formatting the paper includes the following: double-spaced, 1" margins, the proper heading and header, and Times New Roman, 12 point font]
- On the date the project is due, along with the typed "hard" copy that you will be turning, it is **MANDATORY** for you to turn in an e-mail version of the written portion of your project. Be sure to use my correct e-mail address for this class: **[nazar475@yahoo.com]**. **Please use Microsoft Word if you are sending an attachment.**

3] You are required to **conference** with me to discuss the direction of your creative project. This conference will last from 10-15 minutes long and will take place in my office, CHMB-212.